



LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

August 2006

Issue No. 425

Report on RARS Field Day 2006

Article by Neal Fisher N4HAF, RARS Field Day Chairman

On June 24-25, RARS members again participated in Field Day 2006. The event was well attended this year with approximately 50 participants. Jim and Beth Carroll hosted the event on their farm in Apex, NC. This was the 9th year the Carrolls have hosted our Field Day group, and we surely appreciate their hospitality.

Running 7 stations, emergency generators, 100 watts output, plus a GOTA (Get

On The Air) station, the RARS effort yielded 2,692 contacts for a total of 7768 points. Once again, the 40 Meter phone station, run by Mike Murphy WA4BPJ and family, topped all stations in the number of contacts. Congratulations to the Murphys.

The big surprise this year was the successful operation of the GOTA Station, coordinated by Rod Thomson, KI4LSN and operating on 15 Meter SSB using the call K4HF. This generated a lot of excitement among newly licensed hams as well as unlicensed hams by giving them

an opportunity to get on HF for the first time. The operation contributed over 150 contacts and over 600 points to our score.

Vianne Pendleton (XYL of W4AUV) coordinated the Saturday evening BBQ and Sunday brunch. Thanks to Vianne for all of her efforts. The food was great and appreciated by all.

Finally, thanks to all of our band captains and operators for an excellent effort. I hope to see all of you at Field Day in 2007.

See page 4 for pictures!

Presidents Corner: This is going to be the Last Printed

Edition of the *Exciter*!

Article by Dick Bitner W8HYD, RARS President



I'm going to get right to the point...It's been a busy July for RARS, even without our normal club meeting.

At the June meeting, I mentioned that the RARS Board had some real reservations about the budget for the 2006-2007 club year. Hamfest receipts reflected an ominous trend, one that all

hamfests seem to be experiencing: that the revenue for the past event was down considerably from previous years. I won't attempt to analyze what caused the reduction; there are many factors which have impacted attendance and vendor support, but they all added up to a critical shortfall.

(Continued on page 3.)

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

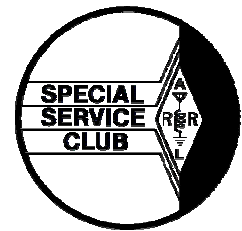
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and is available in both print and electronic formats. Club members receive the printed version in the mail prior to each club meeting. The PDF (electronic) version is posted on the RARS

website at www.rars.org. Members can also choose to have the PDF version emailed directly to them by contacting the treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

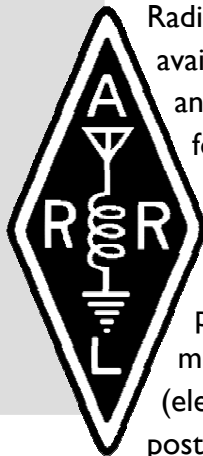
The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor

KI4HOS

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President's Corner (continued from page 1)

Now the bottom line. At the Board meeting, Hank announced that the rent for the Graham Building was being raised, and we had only one available date — one that conflicted with several other hamfests. This did not bode well for the hamfest revenue we need to maintain our level of service as a club. We needed to solve the problems of increased rent, and reduced attendance projection would surely impact our operation. It was agreed that some rather drastic changes would need to be made and made quickly. You're holding, or at least reading, one area that will be impacted.

Most of our members receive the *Exciter* via e-mail. It is also posted on the RARS web site. Our costs for printing, mailing, and handling are nearly \$5,000 per year. That figure is real and one that we have fought to control for several years. There are a few members who, for whatever reason, do not wish to use electronic means

to receive the *Exciter*. This has always been an issue. Nevertheless, the Board felt it is now time for a change.

As a result, we will publish the *Exciter* only as an electronic edition. We are going to survey members who indicate that they want a mailed edition — some of us get both mailed and electronic — and ask if electronic editions are acceptable. For those who need a printed edition, we are asking for volunteers to print extra copies for distribution.

It's that simple. We save the nearly \$5,000 we are spending; we are able to apply that to other projects; and we still maintain our excellent newsletter. That is why this is the last printed edition of the *Exciter*.

Oh yes, we now have a firm date for the hamfest that has no conflicts, reasonable rent, and a reasonable chance to show club income as a result. More cuts and budget changes will be necessary. Costs will keep on rising. We need your ideas.

73, de W8HYD

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts
at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

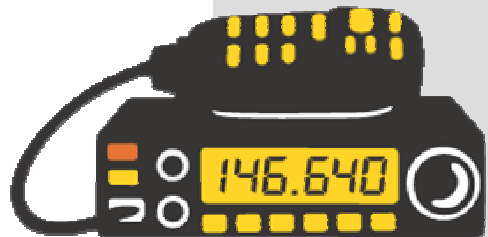
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.





RARS Field Day 2006

Thanks to everyone who
participated in our
fabulous event!

Photos courtesy
KA8HXX and K4RLC.



Welcome New RARS Members!

Scott KI4OCF
Susan Barlow No license

August Birthdays

Mel	K4FEP	8/8
Doug	N3VEJ	8/9
Clement	KD4BMA	8/9
Ray	WA4OMM	8/10
Andy	NI4S	8/10
Nola	KD4OLZ	8/12
Jim	WD8MZR	8/13
Paul	AE4MN	8/15
Bernard	W4BRB	8/17
Bert	WA4TLI	8/19
Al	KE4IHX	8/20
Randy	KI4BRZ	8/20
Suzanne	KI4ATA	8/20
Red	AC4QX	8/21
Steve	N4BTS	8/22
Steve	KJ4BX	8/23
Chip	KE4NPS	8/23
Don	KF4REB	8/28
Edward	N4SSU	8/29
Charlie	W4VFJ	8/30
Chet	KG4IYS	8/30

Hamfest Calendar

August 5	Roanoke, Virginia
August 12	Fayetteville, North Carolina
August 13	Westminster, Maryland
August 19-20	Huntsville, Alabama

Dates courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal.

June 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 443
Traffic: 35/30
Minutes: 818
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 58
Minutes: 350
Sessions: 8

A Successful Educational Partnership!

Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, RARS Education Director

This past spring RARS had teachers willing to teach and students wanting to be taught but no place to hold a Technician preparation class. On the other hand, the newly formed Cisco Systems Amateur Radio Club (CSARC) had a state-of-the-art facility for instruction on the CISCO campus at the Research Triangle Park. The two clubs teamed up for a jointly sponsored class, and as a result, quite a few Technician Class hams are now on the air!

The class assumed a "weekend warrior" format with 3 Saturday morning sessions on April 29, May 13, and June 3. Lead Instructor Dick Bitner W8HYD and Technical Instructor Mike Murphy WA4BPJ delved into the chapters of the ARRL manual, *Now You're Talking*, to provide in-depth explanations of key concepts. Optional PowerPoint material was available to all class participants for further review at home.

Approximately 22 students participated in the class, and a couple of folks came for the exam only. One interesting aspect of this particular class was its "family connections." Two sets of fathers and sons, one husband and wife, and 3 children

and a spouse of several current hams took the class. Radio will definitely be a family hobby in those homes!

The RARS VE Team administered the exam following the final Saturday morning session. Participating Volunteer Examiners included Joe White WA4GIR, Liz White KO4CK, Dick Bitner W8HYD, Larry Royster KI4FYR, Jim McRight KB4BZ, and Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

The following students earned their Technician Class License (or passed the Morse Code test) that afternoon or at a subsequent testing session and have received their call signs: Phyllis Bray KI4PUN, Robert Bray KI4PYQ, Lauren Conder KA4LHC, Robert Conder

W4RPC, David Hinson KI4PUT, Al Issa KI4PUU, Ben Issa KI4PUV, Sean Gavin, KI4PUR, Ron Moorman KI4PAA, Lyle Morgan KI4PUW, Ed Paradise KI4PUX, Ray Powell KC4JWK, Greg Scadden K4GLS, Ronda Sickels KI4PUZ, Glascoe Taylor KI4PVA, Liz Vecchione KI4PVB, and Ric Wright KI4PVC. Congratulations to these newest hams! We look forward to hearing them on the radio often.

Appreciation and thanks go to CSARC President Nick Donato N8VKK, Club Trustee Murry Gavin AG4BJ, Public Relations Officer Jeff Furst WB1DGO, Ruth McCullers Lee, and CISCO for the hospitality, venue, and refreshments. We hope this successful partnership will continue, perhaps with a General preparation class next time!

Photos courtesy NC4VA



Top left: Lead Instructor Dick Bitner W8HYD provides PowerPoint visuals to accompany his remarks for a class of enthusiastic students.

Left: In the forefront, Greg Scadden, Lyle Morgan, and Phyllis Bray ponder Technician Class exam questions.

Above: Bob Conder K4RLC assists daughter Lauren and son Bobby with paperwork prior to the exam.

**Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute
announcements, current information, and
special features at www.rars.org.**

Hams Celebrate the Fourth with Service

**Article by Dick Orander KD4ISC,
RARS Secretary**

Local hams provided communications support for the 14th Annual Spin Cycle 4th of July Firecracker 100K and 50K Bike Rides. The event raised money for the MS Society with over 800 riders participating. The ham crew patrolled the route as SAG (support and gear) vehicles and updated the last rest stop as well as event officials at the finish line. Thanks go out to the following hams for enduring the heat and donating part of their July 4th holiday: Mike AI4KR, Byron K4NGJ, Emily K4WXG, Anders KI4IWX, Thomas WV4TLB, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Gil KG4YJG, Gary KN4AQ, and Dick KD4ISC.



Top: Mike AI4KR grabs a snack before heading out to rest stop #3.

Bottom: Cary's Mayor, Ernie McAlister, addressed the riders before starting the race.

Top: Dick KD4ISC (Net Control, SAG I, and Ham Coordinator – wearing only one hat here) prepares before the ride.

Middle: Kevin Coggins (of The Spin Cycle) addresses the ham crew prior to the race. Clockwise (from Kevin who has his back to the camera) are Selene KG4RMT, Emily K4WXG, Byron K4NGJ, Thomas WV4TLB, Hank K4HM, Anders KI4IWX, Dick KD4ISC, and Gil KG4YJG.

Bottom: Some of more than the 800 bike riders that participated in the 4th of July Firecracker Bike Ride.

Photos courtesy KN4AQ.

Board Meeting - June 2006

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for June 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on June 20, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Dick Bitner W8HYD, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Steve Worley KB4HDQ, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA and Dick Orander KD4ISC. Others – Henry Heller WB2AGA.

President Dick Bitner W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

On a motion from Hank K4HM and second by Chuck K4HF, the May 2006 Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Committee and Officers' Reports

Education – Dick W8HYD reported that 15 students from the recent technician class have received their licenses. There was discussion about providing radio classes for future CERT training sessions.

Treasurer's report - Greg KE4PAX announced there are 292 RARS members. Membership renewal notices will be sent out in the near future. A financial review still needs to be completed.

Vice President's report - Selene KG4RMT advised the church administration has apologized for the room mix up that occurred at the June general meeting. Notice of meeting room conflicts will be announced to us as soon as they are known. Selene reported that notifications of the cancelled July general meeting have been posted on the newsgroups, on the webpage, the Exciter and are being made on the nets. Gary Pearce KN4AQ will provide the August meeting program on the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum. Selene asked for suggestions for the December program. The group agreed to invite the Encore Singers back for their holiday presentation. A club member has suggested that RARS donate a DVD player to the church for use during the meetings. Discussion followed and the general thought was that the club would not make such a donation.

Exciter – Dick W8HYD advised articles for the newsletter are still needed. Methods of saving money on the Exciter are still being explored. A general discussion of the club's newsletter and budget followed.

Webmaster – Steve KB4HDQ reported that email addresses on the website are in place for club officers and board members (president@rars.org for example). He has also checked with RTP Net (our web host) about receiving donations for providing links to vendors from our website. The current president of RTP Net is researching their policy and should be back with an answer soon.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised the hamfest workers' picnic was held last Saturday. He is still investigating cost savings and possible alternate locations for future hamfests. There has been no date confirmed by

Board Meeting - June 2006

the fairgrounds for next year's event. Twenty requests for certificates have been made by those who made contact with this year's RARSfest special event station.

Nets – Mary KG4OQA expressed a desire to provide training and mentoring for net control stations. All of the nets are running well.

VE team – Dick W8HYD thanked the team for providing the testing session for the weekend technician class.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC advised he is still recruiting help for the July 4th Firecracker Bike Ride in Cary. He has also been contacted by the local Autism Society for radio support of the October 14 Autism Ribbon Run in Raleigh. Discussion followed about the continuing search for a public service director and event volunteers.

Ad-hoc Committee – A financial review committee is needed. Chuck K4HF, Hank K4HM and Greg KE4PAX volunteered for the review. Greg will schedule a time and place to meet.

Unfinished Business

It is time to start thinking about next year's board member nominations. The nominating committee should be appointed at the August board meeting.

General Comments

Dick KD4ISC suggested the board consider a tiered membership system for the club. Dues could be calculated based on method of newsletter delivery, public service participation and other activities. He will provide a proposal for consideration at the next board meeting.

Hank K4HM made some general comments about cleaning up our meeting room and removing trash from the church.

Henry WB2AGA will meet with Virginia Enzor NC4VA at a later time to discuss the mutual use of the 145.13 repeater.

Greg KE4PAX provided an update on the equipment donated by Mike Hollingsworth. There has only been one shipment received which does not contain any amateur radio gear. A list of equipment has been distributed. Discussion followed on what to do with this equipment and how to make it available to the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

Amateur Radio Nets



The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

August 1 — "Rainfall Patterns in Tropical Systems" with Rod Gonski, Lead Forecaster with the Raleigh NWS.

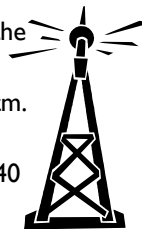
August 29 — "NWS Policy Question and Answer Session with a Brief PowerPoint Presentation on Current Happenings" with Darin Figskey (KC2IPY), Meteorologist in Charge with the Raleigh NWS.

Check us out at www.ccskywarn.net.



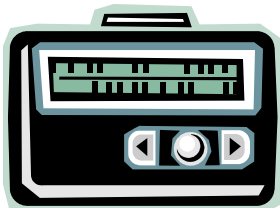
The VOIP Hurricane net is held Saturdays @ 7 pm on the 440 Carolina linking system. To view the list of linked repeaters, go to www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm.

The NC VOIP for North Carolina net is also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sundays @ 7 pm.



The Wake County ARES net meets Thursdays around

2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater	
442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 88.5) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

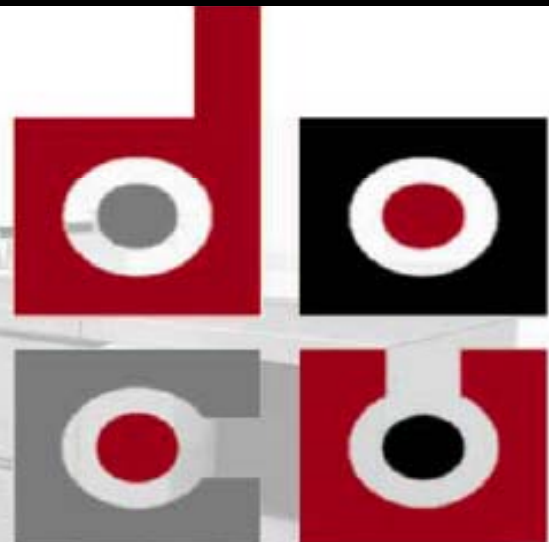


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The RARS

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Wake Ares, ARRL Kids Day, and the American Red Cross Hurricane

Article by Bob Conder K4RLC, Wake ARES

Wake ARES presented ARRL Kids Day as an exciting way to demonstrate radio emergency services during this year's American Red Cross Hurricane Preparedness Expo. EC Tom Brown N4TAB, AEC David Crawford KF4VXJ, and AEC Bob Conder K4RLC set up both a HF and VHF station in the parking lot at the Triangle Town Center. The station was battery operated and modeled on Bob's experiences with ARES in the Mississippi Gulf after Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, Bob

was interviewed by Time Warner News Channel 14 Anchor and Weather Forecaster Joshua McKinney, who is also a ham and has the call of KG4MRE.

We were able to have kids between the ages of 3 to 14 actually get on the air and make radio contacts. Most of the contacts with Bob's YL Alanna K4AAC who, in real life, is a pediatric neuropsychologist and able to talk with kids of all ages. Each child was presented with a certificate of participation. The certificate was given to the child's parents, along with an

explanation of emergency radio services. Lots of kids and their parents were introduced to amateur radio emergency services and ham radio.

Photo below: Bob Conder K4RLC being interviewed by NewsChannel 14 Anchor Joshua McKinney KG4MRE. Photo taken by David Crawford KF4VXJ.

